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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/523,562	11/09/2005	Stefano Cevenini	331.1085	1196

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EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/523,562	Applicant(s) CEVENINI ET AL.	
	Examiner Ismael Izaguirre	Art Unit 3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 17-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 17, 20-23 and 26-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 19, 24, 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner is appreciative of the changes made to the specification and the claim language. These have been duly noted and considered.

CLAIMS

Summary

Claim 15 is the independent claim under consideration in this Office action.

Claims 17-29 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 15, 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Munson (3,268,192).

Munson '192 teaches an ironing board 11 having a pointed end (toward the left in figure 1) and a blunt end (toward the right) and a single iron rest 20 at the blunt end where the iron rest is mounted on the ironing board like a drawer, such that it rides on rails and is pushable under the ironing board after use (as in figure 4). The iron rest is formed of a metal rod bent so as to form a peripheral support frame. The frame thus forms a hollow recess for accommodating the iron and which allows the passage of the iron cord therethrough.

Claims 15,17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bertani (4,574,503).

Bertani teaches an ironing board 1a having a pointed end (toward the left in figure 1) and a blunt end (toward the right) and a single iron rest 2 at the blunt end where the iron rest is mounted on the ironing board like a drawer on a fishing tackle box, such that it includes a parallelogram system and is pushable under the ironing board after use (as in figure 2). The iron rest is formed of a space for accommodating the iron, which is in fluid connection with a steam generator. The stand 2 includes a heater for producing the steam and a connector at the end of the glow plug 12 for power cords 13. Steam is produced and passed to the hand iron, which is moved onto the articles being ironed for removing wrinkles from such articles.

Claims 15,17,20,21,27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsen '398.

Carlsen teaches an ironing board 1 having a pointed end (toward the left in figure 1) and a blunt end 3 (toward the right) and an iron rest 10 at the blunt end where the iron rest is mounted on the ironing board such that it rides on rails 11 and is pushable under the ironing board, as a drawer. Carlsen teaches the first embodiment of the invention as having a connector or passage (figure 2) between the iron rest 2 and the underside of the ironing board 3 (from column 2, lines 33-38) and in another embodiment it includes a connector or recess 45 (figure 5, or also column 3, lines 49-53) for allowing the electrical cord to pass and which includes a handle 12 (via the stand d) for handling the iron rest. Another embodiment of the invention is taught as including

Art Unit: 3765

a rotatable support (figures 4 and 5), where a cover 25 is hinged to the board and rotatable for opening and closing and supporting the iron thereon.

Remarks

Applicant notes that the iron rest of Carlsen is not an iron rest but simply a drawer for storing or placing a hot or cold iron thereon for storage. The examiner notes that the drawer supports a hot or cold iron and as such is broadly definable as an iron rest, whether used during ironing or during storage, since the iron "rests" thereupon. Further, clearly from figure 1, the iron is being supported partially within the drawer with the front of the iron engaging the back of the ironing board and the rear/ underside of the iron resting on the rear wall of the "drawer" while the drawer is in the pulled out or "use" position. This is an indication that the drawer can be used as an iron rest during use. If the iron were completely placed within the drawer, as in figure 2, then perhaps it could be argued that that drawing illustrated the iron as indicating an iron being stored or ready for storage. Applicant argues that when the iron rest is being pushed under the ironing board it is no longer defined as an iron rest. This is not the case since Carlsen clearly defines the drawer or iron rest as including an iron thereon while under the ironing board in figure 2, and as such, is defined as an iron rest during use and while being used for storage.

Applicant argues that Carlsen does not teach a connector for a power cord. This is not the case, Carlsen clearly teaches a connector, such as those noted in the body of the rejection and further teaches several connectors for accommodating the power cord, including the upright, as in figures 1, 4 and 5 and the connector 17. Applicant argues

Art Unit: 3765

that the nature of the rejection of claim 29 was not addressed. Claim 29 requires a single iron rest. Carlsen teaches the concept of a single iron rest, such as in the embodiment of figure 5, including cover 25 which allows the iron to be placed thereon during use or thereunder for stowing the iron, as well.

Claims 15,21 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Munson (3,367,611).

Munson '611 teaches an ironing board 11 having a pointed end (not shown) and a blunt end (figure 1) and a single iron rest 24 at the blunt end where the iron rest is mounted on the ironing board such that it is pushable under the ironing board like a drawer. The iron rest is formed of a rod structure for supporting the iron as shown in figure 1 and is hollow for accommodating the cord to pass therethrough. The iron rest includes a pivoting structure including locking means for locking the iron rest at any angle (from column 3, lines 19-22).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17,20-23,26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen in view of Struwer (83 17 899.6).

Carlsen discloses the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Carlsen teaches an ironing board having an iron rest including an iron rest movable like a drawer under the ironing board for accommodating an iron to rest upon, accordingly, Carlsen teaches an iron rest movable like a drawer. Further, the cord of the iron is kept in tension and remains untangled by providing a weighted upright having a spring force to keep the cord out of the work area and to prevent tangling. However, Carlsen does not suggest including a suspended weight suspended on the iron power cord as the iron cord passes through the recess of the iron rest for tensioning the cord away from the work area and preventing tangling.

Struwer teaches an ironing board 1 having a tapered end and a blunt end and an iron rest located at the blunt end. The iron rest 3 includes a connector or recess 4 for connection or cooperating with the power cord, allowing it to be used as a handle in adjusting a position of the ironing board, if desired, and allowing the passing of the power cord 5 therethrough. The iron rest further includes angled flaps for supporting an iron. The iron, which includes the power cord, passes through the recess and is connected to a socket 6, which is attached to the ironing board legs. The iron cord is provided with a weight 10 which is suspended on the cord and tensions the cord such that when the user moves the iron, the cord is kept taut, untangled and out of the way.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the ironing system of Carlsen as including a weight for suspending from the cord of the iron, say at a location such as in character 8 of figure 1. Providing such a weight would simplify the set up of the iron rest and provide better use of space by avoiding an upright member swinging over the ironing board surface.

Carlsen further teaches the iron rest as including bent up lugs 15 and 16 for supporting the hot soleplate of the iron away from a surface, which would heat up and harm the user. Carlsen does not, however, suggest including opposing flaps with an opening therebetween and there those flaps point downwardly.

Struwer teaches the single iron rest 3 including at least two flaps fixed in a folded up position for supporting the iron having an opening therebetween and where the flaps are oriented obliquely to a plane of the ironing board and pointing downwardly.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the ironing system of Carlsen as including a pair of opposing support flaps for supporting the iron at an angle to the plane of the ironing board. Providing this would greatly increase the ability of the iron rest to dissipate heat from the iron when placed on the flaps.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 18,19,24 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Springer, Johnson, Lehrman and Wicky et al. illustrate ironing boards including iron rests, which slide beneath the ironing boards like drawers.

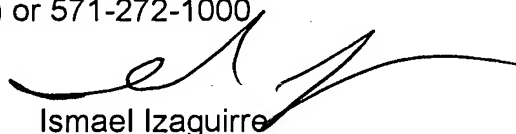
INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3765

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765